THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) A draft Action Plan for implementation of National Water Policy, 2002 has been formulated by the Ministry of Water Resources. This draft Action Plan has been discussed with the State Governments/Union Territories and Non-Government/ Voluntary Organisations in various fora before finalising it. The Action Plan has been approved and adopted in the National Conference of Water Resources and Irrigation Minister of States/Union Territory Administrators held on 5th February, 2003.

(c) For integrated planning of water resources development and management, the action plan includes preparation of Integrated Water Resources Basin Development Plan, popularising and providing technical support to states for rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge etc.; preparation of a comprehensive Action Plan for watershed management, basin/sub-basin wise. The Action Plan also emphasizes planning of all water related activities including surface and groundwater to be brought under one department say Water Resources Department in States. Working out model institutional framework for establishing River Basin Organisations (RBOs) and setting up of RBOs as per the modalites so worked out for each basin/sub-basin are the actions included in the Plan.

Status of accelerated irrigation benefits programme in Andhra Pradesh

2775. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had in the recent past launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to assist the States to complete those irrigation projects which are in advance stages of completion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the status of AIBP in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since inception of this programme in 1996-97, an amount of Rs. 11541.7314 crore has been released to 172 major/medium and 5382 minor irrigation projects in 28 States.

(c) 10 projects of Andhra Pradesh has been receiving Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and an amount of Rs. 663.801 crore has been released to these projects till 2002-03.

Restructuring of command area development programme

2776. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and State-wise budget that has been earmarked for Command Area Development Programme during the last five years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are seriously thinking of restructuring the above programme to make to more beneficial to the frarmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme Statewise allocation of budget is not being made as the funds under the scheme are reimbursed to State Governments on the basis of physical and financial progress. The year-wise and State-wise release of funds under the scheme during the last five years is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Keeping in view the recommendations of the Working Groups of the Planning Commission, the suggestions of the Ministry of Finance and the views expressed by the State Governments, the Command Area Development Programme has been restructured to include some new components and delete a few of the ongoing items. The components of the programme proposed to be deleted during the X Plan are land levelling and shaping, sprinkler and drip irrigation, conjuctive use surface and ground water, crop compensation and introduction of suitable cropping patterns as these are primarily subsidy oriented and the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development have provision for such activities under their existing schemes. Some new components aimed at correction of deficiencies in the irrigation systems, renovation of Minor Irrigation tanks, and intermediate/link drains for facilitating drainage have, however, been added to the programme to make it more beneficial to the farmers.